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April 2003
Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by 9 May 2003

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IT'S SPRING TIME!
WIN
ONE OF 5 DESK CLOCKS

Time is the one thing we all have in equal amounts. How we use it is the key to success. Five Desk Clocks are being given away in this month's Buyer's Guide competition in association with GreenLink International & Blazon.

' THE TURFTIME TEASER'
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YOUR NEXT ISSUE
WILL BE WITH YOU BY 9 MAY 2003

GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Editor
Scott MacCallum
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801
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The advertising copy deadline for inclusion in the May 2003 edition of Greenkeeper International is Friday 11 April 2003.

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SETTING UP A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR MEMBERS

The Association is currently establishing a Directory of Members who are willing to support fellow greenkeepers when the need arises with advice and guidance from a greenkeeping perspective. This might be when a greenkeeper is experiencing employment difficulties with his club and such advice will be of assistance to back up support received from the Legal Helpline Service. Alternatively, it might be a specific problem on his golf course when a second opinion would be helpful. Members need support for many reasons and the setting up of this Directory will further assist BIGGA in promoting the welfare of its members. Those putting their names forward for the Directory can be assured that referral for assistance will be on a geographical basis thereby minimising the time and travel involved for those giving of their services. If you feel that you can support your fellow greenkeepers in this way, please contact Neil Thomas at BIGGA HOUSE.

TREKKING UP KILIMANJARO

James McCormack, Head Greenkeeper at Kirriemuir GC, will be trekking up Kilimanjaro early next year to raise money for the Anthony Nolan Trust, a registered charity which helps provide bone marrow for patients suffering from leukaemia and other bone marrow diseases. The trust receives no help from the government and relies solely on fundraising.

The trek itself will last for six days, three and a half days to the top of Uhuru peak, a total of 5895m and two and a half days of descent. “This is the first time I have attempted anything like this. I’m not a hill walker but I do plenty of walking at work,” he said.

“Climbing Kilimanjaro is described as the experience of a lifetime and it certainly will be that for me,” added James. James is trying to raise around £4,000 and anyone who would like to sponsor or make a donation should send it to James at Kirriemuir GC, Northmuir, Kirriemuir, DD8 4LN and cheques should be made payable to The Anthony Nolan Trust.

NEW FACE AT ROMILEY GOLF CLUB

Damon Beverley has been appointed as new Head Greenkeeper of Romiley Golf. Damon (2nd from right) heads a young, highly qualified and enthusiastic greenkeeping team at Romiley.

He started his career at Holdsworth Golf Club followed by two years service at Stamford Golf Club. He joined the greenkeeping staff at Romiley in 1998 and is delighted to be currently involved in new tee construction at the 7th and 9th holes. The new drainage system, costing over £100,000, has provided Romiley members with excellent all year round golf conditions and is constantly being improved and upgraded. Michael Moore (1st left) has been appointed as First Assistant and Chris Harrison, Chairman of Greens Committee, commenting on the appointments of Damon and Michael said that they were well deserved and the Romiley greenkeeping team were fully committed to improving the quality and presentation of the course for members and visitors to the club.

BIGGA GOLF DAY

Anyone who wishes to enter a team in the annual BIGGA Golf Day, which this year is being held on Monday, June 23, should contact Sarah Sowery at BIGGA HOUSE Tel: 01347 833800 by May 1. As ever the event is being held at Aldwark Manor and the cost of £200 + VAT includes pre golf bacon roll, ploughman’s lunch, refreshments at the halfway house, a barbecue and prizes.

The picture on page 14 of last month’s issue was actually of the 11th hole on Parasampia GC, Newbury, and not The Berkshire. The image had been included on the disc of what had been assumed to be all Berkshire Golf Club images. Apologies to both golf clubs and to any reader who may have been confused.
The BIGGA Scottish Region Greenkeeping Conference was once again held at the Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline, at the beginning of March. This year we attracted over 160 delegates that included greens convenors, greenkeepers and representatives of the industry to the College for our Conference.

Scotland’s Education Convenor, Robert Hogarth, Course Manager, Cardrona Hotel & Golf Course chaired the opening session and he opened the Conference by introducing Tim Earley, Managing Director, Waste2Water Europe Ltd. Tim led the way with an excellent talk on why we need a properly constructed wash-off area and gave us several examples of the benefit of such a system.

Next we had Mark Gordon, of Eamonn Wall & Co, on selecting the correct wood for your course. Mark delivered a most informative and interesting talk.

After the break we had the present Deputy Chairman of the Association and Golf Course & Estate Manager from De Vere Carden Park Hotel, Andy Campbell. Andy spoke at length about the managing of an estate that covers 750 acres, containing two golf courses, tennis courts, Off Road driving and a vineyard.

To round of the morning session we had Justin Smith, Managing Director of Turftrax Ground Management, who spoke at length about the benefits of this system in relation to preparing and maintaining high quality surfaces.

After lunch, Ian Henderson, Managing Director of Golf Finance explained to us the various methods of funding available to golf clubs. This included the purchase of machinery and how to support this venture. With several of the clubs represented by committee members, including green convenors and I am sure that this talk would be of interest to them.

Representing the Home of Golf we had Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent, St Andrews Links Trust. Gordon gave us an insight into the structure and running of the greenkeeping staff they all have a role to play in ensuring the smooth running of the six courses. He provided us with details of the rounds played and the cost to the visitors and local club members. Definitely one of the most interesting talks I have heard.

After lunch we had Mark Gordon again, this time from Royal Inverdivot GC, which in turn helps us to attract speakers from throughout the country to Golf Finance.

Finally, this year’s winner of the Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich, which is presented to the Student of the Year, was Graham Winter of Kingsbarns Golf Links. Graham received his award from Archie Dunn, Chairman, BIGGA Scottish Region.

Peter J. Boyd, Regional Administrator

HUNTER GRINDERS

Two new members of the Hunter Grinders team joined Managing Director Keith Cann-Evans at an exhibition in Oslo to support the newly appointed Norwegian dealer; Reinhardt Maskin AS. Tony Smith has joined the company as Sales Manager, with responsibility for UK and European Sales Development.

Tony is very well known in the turf care industry with a proven track record spanning over 30 years. Ian Robson is Sales and Service Engineer.

Ian has extensive experience in mechanical and electrical engineering and will be responsible for demonstrating and installations as well as supporting Tony on sales.

“Both men will bring valuable experience and knowledge to an already successful team. The appointment of Reinhardts as our dealer in Norway is the first in a planned campaign to distribute Hunter Grinders equipment throughout Europe and the USA. With the new office facilties and extended manufacturing space we intend to drive forward the expansion of Hunter Grinders Ltd by introducing new products to the UK and overseas markets in 2003,” said Keith.

ACTIVITY DAY WINNER

When your membership is due for renewal you receive a newsletter which contains details of how to win an activity day of your choice. Activities are held all over the country so there should be a centre near you. A winner is selected every three months so it does not matter what time of year you renew your membership.

The first activity day winner is Paul Terry of Sheerness Golf Club who has a choice of at least 20 activities to choose from ranging from Ferrari driving to powerboating.

Congratulations Paul!
Tournament. Some actually finished in the dry. But same manner and then turned to a freezing wind and leading up to the Friday, started off the day in the heavy rain.

WALTON HEATH

suitable prizes very easy this year.

Crystal, from Burton-on-Trent. Their huge range of high won't seem the same without his cheerful face

Captain of Walton Heath in this their Centenary Year Smith to mark his forthcoming retirement. Dennis has Coombe Hill; 10-17. George Brown, Deansgate meal and a very entertaining after dinner speech from

Patrick Frankin-Adams. South East Chairman George Taylor, and Joe Crawley, Vitax. Richard Haynes, Gem Complete Weed Control, Ernest Doe and Sons, GEM IN THE WET!

IN THE WET!

Ridge; 18-24. Martin Smith, Regiment Way; Guests. The Scotts Co, John Shaw Machinery Ltd, Sheerwater Professional, who got soaked and frozen to death

Leisure Ltd, Sherriff Amenity Services Ltd, Sisis Equipment Ltd, Tacit Golf Equipment Ltd, TurfCare Solutions Ltd and Vitax Ltd.

Professional Ltd, Grass Roots Trading Co, Kestrel Golf Equipment Ltd, TurfCare Solutions Ltd and Vitax Ltd.

Some actually finished in the dry. But same manner and then turned to a freezing wind and leading up to the Friday, started off the day in the heavy rain.

‘Starter’ at this event for almost 20 years and it

Kevin Stillwell, Hankley Common.

Beck and Neil Pullen. The Region's thanks are due to the Sponsors of this day for their wonderful support: Avoncrop Amenities Services, Bioseed Ltd, BSP Landscapes, CMW Ltd, Complete Weed Control, Ernest Doe and Sons, GEM Professional Ltd, Grass Roots Trading Co, Kestrel Golf and Sports, Machines Direct Ltd, T. Parker and Sons (2003), Rigby Taylor Ltd, Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd, The Scotts Co, John Shaw Machinery Ltd, Sheerwater Leisure Ltd, Sherriff Amenities Services Ltd, Stits Equipment Ltd, Tacit Golf Equipment Ltd, TurfCare Solutions Ltd and Vitax Ltd.

Derek Farrington Regional Administrator

With his much reduced girth other people (including Chefs Johnny Beck and Neil Pullen from Sherriff) can now find room to shelter with David Murdoch MIG in the hall

Neil Thomas comments as the show goes on... A question for greenkeepers and the trade. Was BTME/Clubhouse 2003 a good experience for you and of subsequent benefit to your club or company? Our experience at BIGGA HOUSE clearly indicates that an overwhelming majority of those in Harrogate this January would reply (and indeed are replying) in the affirmative to that question. We've written to all companies, visited stands during the show, elicited views from the Steering Committee and carried out a comprehensive review. We can say, with conviction, that the vibes are very positive, perhaps more so than at any previous exhibition in Harrogate.

Every event of this size will present problems and where issues have been raised, these have been dealt with on an individual basis and points noted for improvement in 2004. Yes, there will be some adjustments next year which are currently under consideration by BIGGA’s Board of Management and being discussed with the Steering Committee. These will be announced in the May issue of Greenkeeper International magazine.

So is that it? Well unfortunately no if you've been reading the industry press. 'Dam with faint praise' is the phrase which comes to mind. Coverage tends to start with dark suspicions of the visitor figures. Surely, there is some conspiracy here they ask? Record figures again this year, how can it be? Let's answer that one. BIGGA engages an independent company for its registration procedures before and during the exhibitions. They’re not BIGGA’s figures as such and, believe it or not, there are ethics involved here as far as we are concerned even if that is not the norm elsewhere. BIGGA is not in the game of manipulating figures. Indeed one journal actually does suggest that more may have made their way in through a loophole which we will seek to close next year. So yes, we are proud of the attendances and surely that is exceedingly good news for the trade and the profession especially when we are being told that more 'buyers' were in evidence this year.

Reading through one trade publication left one quite perplexed. It questioned the point of shows in general and then having argued one way and the other appeared to conclude that anyway there are too many shows. This, of course, is a well worn argument and 'showitis' appears to be a recurring annual ‘complaint’ which merits discussion. Outbursts of this ‘complaint’ normally occur twice a year in late September and late January and coincide with the SALTEX and BTME/Clubhouse. While the vast majority see ‘health’ benefits for their companies and clubs in participating in these shows, those with ‘showitis’ are bent on eradication as the solution to their ‘complaint’. Drastic perhaps and time for a shot of reality. This would suggest that there are two main aspects to any show, the company displaying its goods and the customer in attendance to consider his purchasing options or indeed to actually place his orders. Yes there will be others present with peripheral interests but the core of any show is the company/customer relationship. We read much with regard to company costs in relation to these shows and these we know are considerable. But

we hear little of the customer, in our case the greenkeeper. Whatever happened to 'the customer is king'? He has decisions to make, a budget to spend and, at the end of the day, his decisions have a direct affect on the profitability of a company. Many of our members oversee large budgets for their clubs and it is in Harrogate that many of these budgets are allocated or actually spent. In essence both parties need each other and in the ability to bring them together through a vibrant and successful show lies our success.

A company may well consider it a more viable option to meet many of its customers over three days under one roof in Harrogate rather than have people on the road accomplishing this over a much longer period. That is not for BIGGA to decide. The important point is that companies exhibit at Harrogate, or at any other show, after a considered judgement that it is in their best interests. BIGGA has no inalienable right to believe that companies will continue exhibiting there year on year if that is not indeed the case. So we appreciate their custom, work through a Steering Committee and make every attempt to meet the particular needs of individual companies who are incurring substantial costs. Neither do we forget the customer in providing a show and educational programme which will make him want to return in future years. Finally we look ahead, witness the advent of the Clubhouse exhibition. We will aim for it to grow and prove a long term success. In turn this will benefit the whole event and those who partake in it, be it company or customer. BIGGA is under no illusion in that we must continue to produce each year successful exhibitions for both the companies and their customers. We stand or fall on that and if we fail BTME and Clubhouse will disappear, which in the current argument would indeed mean two less shows. 'Hallelujah!' will be the reaction of a vocal minority. The evidence would suggest that this would not be in the best interests of the industry or the profession. Rest assured BIGGA has no intention of letting this happen. We have been in Harrogate since 1989 and intend for the exhibitions both to continue and grow in the future. In the great British tradition, we can assume that some will continue to try and knock us down. So be it.

The machinations of the industry press are, therefore, becoming somewhat tedious. The irony is, of course, that these same publications are beneficiaries of the BTME/Clubhouse. They are there in force, talking to their own customers, securing advertising for their publications and generally enjoying a successful week. Good for them and we are much pleased in that regard.

Jumping on bandwagons or being negative thereafter presumably makes for good copy, though one particular journal appears to have gone quite downmarket on this occasion. In an attempt to titillate its readers it shows far more interest in 'exhibitors at an alternative venue in Harrogate as its photographs only too clearly demonstrate.

How the industry press choose to cover BTME/Clubhouse or the show scene in general is their own business but patrons of the BTME/Clubhouse will surely see such copy for what it is worth - the generation of publicity for the publications in question and with little other merit. It certainly won't distract BIGGA from staging a successful event in Harrogate next January and setting out to attract still more exhibitors and visitors. We believe that the demand for BTME/Clubhouse will continue and we will be here to meet it whilst fulfilling and hopefully exceeding expectations for both companies and their customers.

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SBARENBRUG _ THE BEST FOR FINE TURF, BAR NONE!
Ken Richardson looks at methods of funding education and training courses when he writes about the BIGGA, Ransomes, Jacobsen Scholarships and Individual Learning Accounts. It is an unfortunate fact that some golf clubs refuse to train their staff and Ken shows how these clubs could be breaking Health and Safety Law.

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to continued support by Ransomes Jacobsen, we have been able to award 12 more Higher Education Scholarships to BIGGA members. They are:

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<th>NAME</th>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TRAINING PROVIDER</th>
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<td>Mark Zealander</td>
<td>BSc Turf grass Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td>Cannington College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angus MacLeod</td>
<td>HNC Turf Grass Management</td>
<td>Pencoed College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Wiltshire</td>
<td>HNC Turf Grass Management</td>
<td>Pencoed College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Cross</td>
<td>Foundation Degree Turf Science</td>
<td>Myerscough College</td>
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<td>Keith Scruton</td>
<td>HND Turf Science &amp; Golf Course Man</td>
<td>Myerscough College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigel White</td>
<td>HNC Golf Course Management</td>
<td>Askham Bryan College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith Colley</td>
<td>Foundation Degree Turf Science</td>
<td>Myerscough College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nic Davies</td>
<td>MSc Sports Surface Technology</td>
<td>Cranfield University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ceasar Nieuwenhuzen</td>
<td>HNC Turf Grass Management</td>
<td>Herriot Watt University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrian Panks</td>
<td>HNC Turf Grass Management</td>
<td>Pencoed College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Hamlet</td>
<td>HNC In Golf Course Management</td>
<td>Elmwood College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Dickinson</td>
<td>HNC Golf Course Management</td>
<td>Reaseheath College</td>
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Scholarships are awarded on a first come first served basis and cover approximately half fees. A total of more than £16500 has been awarded so far.

For your chance to be awarded a BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship, contact BIGGA House.

Health and Safety

Does your club have a greenkeeper training plan? Common Law places a duty on all employers to take necessary action to protect employees at work from harm including a requirement to ensure that those employees are competent to implement safe systems of work. Moreover, it is a legal requirement under the Health and Safety at Work Act to ensure the provision of such information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of employees. In this context, training is the process by which those staff are rendered competent to follow instructions.

There is no excuse, in Law, for failing to conduct appropriate training and assessment.

Funding

An excuse frequently put forward for failing to train greenkeeping staff is lack of money. However, help is available and a recent announcement from the Scottish Executive, will help clubs in Scotland. Individual Learning Accounts, axed in 2001, following allegations of fraud, are to be reintroduced over the next two years. The new scheme will differ substantially from its predecessor and it would be geared towards basic skills. It will be monitored by the Student Awards Agency and learndirect Scotland. It will be aimed at those on low incomes.

An announcement about a replacement Individual Learning Account scheme for England is expected in June.
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Your greens will be greener
The new look BIGGA website was launched just before BTME this year and it’s well worth a look. The members only area contains the bulletin board and is a great place to chat and gain advice from your fellow greenkeepers. You can also view the lending library listing on-line and request a publication. The website is updated on a regular basis to keep you up to date with all the news and events in your area, indeed there are no excuses to miss your section’s events as all the details for forthcoming activities and golf days are listed. The education and training pages are comprehensive and contain details of courses in your area. It is also the page to visit if you would like further information on the environment competition and the Toro student of the year award. The Bigga website can be found at www.bigga.org.uk

Check out the website...

People

How well do you know the people who work for the Association?

In this new series we give you a chance to learn a little more about a member of BIGGAs Headquarters staff

Marie Whyld

Position: Design & Production Editor

What does your role involve?

Design and production of Greenkeeper International along with all other literature required by the Association

How long have you worked for the Association?

Nine months

Where were you born and brought up?

Born in Nottingham, bought up in Derbyshire

Where did you work before you joined BIGGA?

Pension Consultancy

What are your hobbies?

Swimming, gardening! (have to do it)

What is your favourite food?

Mexican

What is your favourite film?

Erm... not got one always fall asleep while watching them!

What was the last book you read?

Bridget Jones’ Diary

Who is your all time hero?

My mum and dad

What was the best event you’ve ever attended?

Final day of the Ryder Cup 2002

What is your claim to fame?

(None not acceptable)

Launch of gift vouchers I designed by Frank Bruno and Patsy Palmer!